

98-84378-3

De Boyve, M.

International co-operation

Manchester

[1887]

98-84378-3

MASTER NEGATIVE #

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
PRESERVATION DIVISION

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC MICROFORM TARGET

ORIGINAL MATERIAL AS FILMED - EXISTING BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

334  
Z9 De Boyve, M  
v 5 International co-operation; an address delivered...at the co-operative congress...1887.  
~~Manchester~~ [1887].  
4 p. 19cm.  
  
Vol. of Pamphlets  
Manchester, Central Co-operative Board,  
[1887]  
  
Only Ed

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: Reproductions may not be made without permission from Columbia University Libraries.

## TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35mmREDUCTION RATIO: 9:1IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA IIA IB IIBDATE FILMED: 4-1-98INITIALS: MTTRACKING #: 32387

FILMED BY PRESERVATION RESOURCES, BETHLEHEM, PA.

B1301 Sup

No 6

334

39

0.5

# INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

---

## AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

M. DE BOYVE

(DELEGATE FROM THE CONGRESS OF FRENCH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES),

AT THE

CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS HELD AT CARLISLE, 1887.

---

ISSUED BY

THE CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BOARD, CITY BUILDINGS, CORPORATION  
STREET, MANCHESTER.

## ADDRESS.

When I had last year the honour of greeting the English co-operators at the Plymouth Congress, I represented only our French Federal Co-operative Board; to-day I present myself before you with full powers from all the co-operative societies assembled at our Lyons Congress, who have assigned to me a definite mission, to prepare an International Co-operative Alliance.

This project, which I presented at Plymouth, was postponed because you thought that the French societies had not expressed their will with sufficient clearness. To-day that reason does not exist. Their will was manifested in a way surpassing our expectations.

To convince you of this, let me carry you for a few minutes to our Lyons Congress, where co-operative Britain was represented by your devoted Vansittart Neale and Acland; Italy, by the veteran co-operator Vignano and the learned Ugo Rabbeno; and Switzerland, by Pictet, of Geneva. I must not forget, among those present, Sedley Taylor, the president of your Derby Congress, the apostle of the participation of the worker in profits.

Entrusted with the study of co-operation in England, I closed my report by invoking your illustrious dead—Robert Owen, Maurice, Kingsley, Lloyd Jones, Mansfield, and the Pioneers of Rochdale—to express to them publicly my love and respect. I added—"To us you are greater than the most illustrious conquerors who, to satisfy their ambition, have left behind them deluges of blood, mothers wild with despair, and fatherless children. They have sown the wind, and reaped the tempest. You have noiselessly fought to conquer men's hearts by the gift of your own. You have shown to the disinherited the way to raise their position. You have made them understand the uselessness of violence, and the strength of union and perseverance. To all classes you have preached fraternity. To aristocratic England you have made clear that if the worker has duties to fulfil, he has rights also. Illustrious dead! your lives have been well filled; and they have left behind them a tract of light. You have taught the workers of your country mutual union, and they have already created for themselves conditions of labour and of life enviable by all the other workers of Europe. We desire to-day to follow up your work, while we enlarge it. We desire to found—what at Plymouth was received with favour—an international league between English and French co-operators. This co-operative alliance, for the progressive and pacific solution of all social questions, will serve as a barrier alike to the unchained hatred of that revolutionary socialism which would lead us back to barbarianism, through destruction, and to the detestable ambition of those who would drag their country into war and extermination. It will demonstrate, in short, that co-operation, while busy about the interests of every day, can yet rise to the loftiest summits of social aspiration."

As I uttered these words the hands of the Italian, English, and Swiss co-operators came forth to meet mine, while three rounds of applause greeted the friendly grasp of the delegates of the four nations.

At the same moment, amid this enthusiasm, the Co-operative Alliance received its baptism, and the delegates to the Congresses of Milan and Carlisle were named. I call as witnesses your illustrious representatives at the Lyons Congress, Messrs. E. V. Neale and Acland.

To fulfil this mission, M. Fougereon, our devoted general secretary, went to Milan, and there met nothing but encouragement. Could it be otherwise in that noble country where the veteran co-operator Vignano is one of the first promoters of the International Federation to Substitute for War Peaceful Arbitration.

I place myself here under the protection of your general secretary, Mr. Vansittart Neale, and your president, Mr. Holyoake. I hope to find among you, brethren and English friends, the like sympathy. Mr. Vansittart Neale has not waited till to-day to be an international co-operator; his advice has been requested in France and in Italy. Partly to his influence we owe the success of our first co-operative Congress; where was present also Mr. Holyoake, your illustrious historian, who has played an important part in Italy as the friend of all the patriots who have fought for the independence of their country.

The project of international federation, which I have the honour to present to you for the second time, seeks, as M. Gide, our president at the Congress at Lyons said, not the suppression of patriotism, but the association of the nations. In the same way as co-operative association has for its end not to annihilate individuals, but to aid the development and use of their faculties, the association of nations has for its aim, not to sweep away the individuality of each nation, but to bring into relief and utilise their different aptitudes, and their respective originality and genius.

Let me add that this association is more and more urgent. The world is passing through a crisis, felt in every country, and threatening, if care be not taken, a general convulsion. When sailors see, in the motions of the water and the state of the sky, the signs presaging a tempest, they take precautions to resist it. Let us imitate the sailors.

Revolutionary socialism, which knows only how to destroy and proposes no escape from the ruins it would cause, is increasing every day the number of its disciples, gathered from all who are discontented, and all who have nothing to do. In practical countries such as yours, they are, I allow, less numerous, but they exist, and there have been moments when they have put your London population into commotion. They, too, have an international society whence they banish all idea of country. It is not ours; therefore would we oppose to it a co-operative international union—the enemy of disturbance, because it rests on the conviction that only by social and international peace can we really succeed in ameliorating the condition of the people. If our standard is borne by hands resolute, and firmly persuaded—if we march in complete union, we shall absorb the strength of the revolutionary party by attracting their best and honestest soldiers.

But this is not all; with our tongues and our pens we must combat those excessive armaments of all nations which stop the development

of economic forces, and those wars which are generally the result of the caprice, or odious ambition of a few men. To combat those crimes of high treason against humanity let our voice be heard in concert with that of the International Federation to Substitute Arbitration for War, which has not as yet a following as numerous as our own. The union of all co-operators will constitute a mighty moral power. One would despair of everything, and believe in providence no more, if one could admit that for ever brutal might will dominate right, and nations be governed against their will and transferred, like a tame flock, from one dominion to another. This, indeed, would be war in permanence, for, as long as an oppressed nation has a drop of blood in its veins, it must try to conquer its liberty and independence.

Let me not be told that these questions have nothing to do with co-operation! What is the aim of co-operation if not progressively to attain a better organisation of society by equitable and practical means? This idea we must enlarge by making it international in order to give it all its expansive power. You complain sometimes in your congresses of the progress of egoism among co-operators; if you would react against it raise your thoughts to a higher elevation. The greatness of man is seen, it has been said, in that his eyes are naturally turned towards the sky. Do the same. Lift your eyes above material interests.

The foundations of co-operation are solid, for they rest on the ground of practice, whence it can address itself to the highest questions without fear of being lost in Utopia.

The project of co-operative alliance which I propose to you is as follows:—

1. In each country that joins the alliance let a committee of three or five members, to be named by the Congress, take the title of "The Co-operative Alliance Committee," and correspond with all other committees, to exchange their ideas on the questions of social and international peace, whilst abstaining from all that can touch in any degree on internal political questions.

2. Let the co-operative newspapers of these countries mutually reserve a column for the communications of the committees.

We have no pretension to attain at one bound to international and social peace; but, as co-operators, we ought to desire it and show the way which may lead our descendants to it.

France has mingled her blood with that of Italy for the conquest of her liberty; she has fought side by side with England and Italy in the Crimea. This generous blood will not have been shed in vain if the co-operators of the three countries, in memory of this warlike alliance, form a lasting pacific one, to react against the social and international iniquities of the world. Nations are ready to destroy each other, peoples are oppressed, passions are unchained. But the general understanding among co-operators who have confidence in the definitive triumph of justice, in the victory of good over evil, in the gradual disappearance of all social miseries, will suffice to overthrow, one after another, every obstacle.

In the moral world it is not numbers which win—it is faith. To work then, with hearts firm set, and, with God's will, the future is ours.

---

Co-operative Printing Society Limited, 92, Corporation Street, Manchester.

328471

**END OF  
TITLE**